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General and complete disarmament

Reducing nuclear danger; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons; and nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/69/150.

** The information contained in the addendum was received after the deadline for the submission of the main report.

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III. Information received from Governments

Austria

[Original: English]
[15 September 2014]

Austria considers the existence of nuclear weapons to be unacceptable given the risks of their use, either intentionally or by accident or mistake, and the resulting unacceptable humanitarian consequences. Austria believes that it is difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with international law, in particular, with fundamental principles of international humanitarian law.

Austria has vigorously supported nuclear disarmament efforts, which it considers an obligation for all States. At the national level, the commitment to pursue a world without nuclear weapons is enshrined in the 1999 constitutional law (149/1999) on "A nuclear-free Austria": "It is prohibited to produce, stockpile, transfer, test or use a nuclear weapon in Austria. It is further prohibited to establish installations for the stockpiling of nuclear weapons in Austria." (article 1).

Austria supports efforts for an early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. Austria's support for multilateral nuclear disarmament also refers to the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as to efforts to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations like the Open-ended Working Group established in Geneva in 2013 (see General Assembly resolutions 67/56 and 68/46). Furthermore, Federal President Heinz Fischer participated as opening speaker in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament on 26 September 2013 and stated that "The peoples of the world have the right to live without this menace (namely, nuclear weapons). (...) Nuclear weapons should be stigmatized, banned and eliminated before they abolish us." Austria supported Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament".

Consistent with the recognition in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference of "the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and ... the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law", Austria and like-minded States presented joint statements on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament during meetings of the NPT Preparatory Committee and the Assembly. In order to underline the urgency of nuclear disarmament, help to fundamentally change the discourse on nuclear weapons and foster the understanding that any use of nuclear weapons would be morally repugnant and devastating in its global effects, Austria participated in the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo in 2013 and in Nayarit, Mexico in 2014 and will host the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons on 8 and 9 December 2014.

India

[Original: English]
[27 August 2014]

India joined as co-sponsor of General Assembly resolution 68/42.

India's support for the existence of an obligation to pursue in good faith and to conclude nuclear disarmament negotiations is not based on the provisions of any particular legal instrument but is a logical extension of India's consistent political support for nuclear disarmament. India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

India's working paper CD/1816 enumerated specific steps, including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons; reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines; measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger; negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear-weapon States on "no first use" of nuclear weapons; negotiation of a universal and legally binding agreement on the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States; negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame.

India considers the Conference on Disarmament the appropriate forum for the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament through the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate agreed by consensus as part of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work.